

I remember watching with shock and sadness as those commandeered airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon. My prayers continue for the relatives of those who died that day, especially for children who lost their parents. The events of September 11 remind me of how fortunate I am to live in this great country that our visionary Founding Fathers so wisely established, and how lucky I am to share in the many liberties they set forth. I am also reminded of how quickly those liberties can vanish lest they are stringently safeguarded.

William P. Jeffs
NASA, Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Public Affairs

I am an officer in the Navy Reserve and arrived at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., for my annual reserve training on Sept. 10, 2001. I watched the second WTC tower fall on TV. Several officers with me were recalled to the Pentagon, and one man's wife was killed there. I was very proud to be able to serve my country at that time. All the officers in my class watched the base flag raised every morning at sunrise for the next two weeks.

Robert B. Powers
United Space Alliance, Engineering Staff
Guidance and Control Systems

Our department had 11 travelers off site, which caused me some measure of anxiety as department secretary. My college course, Experimental Methods in Psychology, had recently begun. The Experiment hypothesis changed after the attack, when I realized that family/close friends offer a strong social support, which helps during crisis situations. *Attack on America 9-11: Do Family/Close Friend Support and Intrusive Thoughts Predict Psychological Stress?* involved 25 coworkers who willingly participated, giving me excellent results, which showed intrusive thoughts were a strong predictor of stress. I appreciated our coworkers' discussions and the mutual emotional support, which helped me cope with 9/11.

Denise S. Barrett
Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc., Secretary 4
Laboratories Department, White Sands Test Facility

September 11 was a very devastating tragedy for so many, many people and it made me realize how vulnerable our country is. We always hear about this happening in other countries and think it will never happen here... but it did! I think it united our nation more and strengthened the spirit of patriotism.

Also, I feel it was a wake-up call from our Creator. I think we take so much for granted here and don't really appreciate what our forefathers struggled so hard to give us.

Beverly J. Spiller
IMPASS, Graphics and Imagery Services
Graphics and Publications

I picked up my kids from school and explained to them what was happening. My husband was out of the country, but we communicated all day by cell phone. He directed us to buy emergency supplies, not knowing what would happen next. Then we went to church for a prayer vigil. I spent days on the couch watching CNN, barely sleeping. My family kept in contact for reassurance. I bought a flag for my car. The events of 9/11 brought sadness, pride and admiration for the heroes who responded, but also a renewed faith in God and stronger patriotism.

Cheryl R. Andrews
NASA, Hardware/Software Manager
Flight Design and Dynamics Division

I grew up in NJ, in one of the towns hardest hit on 9/11. My first thoughts that morning were of cars that would be left at train stations, families waiting for word from loved ones, my friends and acquaintances who would be counted as dead, missing or survivors, and how the NYC skyline was forever changed. I visited Ground Zero in January, walking the perimeter, taking photos, visiting with locals, stopping at all the makeshift memorials. When the towers toppled, my heart broke in two, etching in my memory and my heart the day when my world changed forever.

Ellen A. Gillis
United Space Alliance, Publicist
JSC Astronaut Appearances Office

The attacks that struck America's soul affected me in many ways, but mostly one word comes to mind: Perspective. Looking to the past, I gain perspective on the present and the future. I acquired a deepened respect for the bareness of humanity and the fragility of life. Never will I forgo my family, never will I forgo my friends, never will I forgo my neighbors, my country and never, ever my freedom.

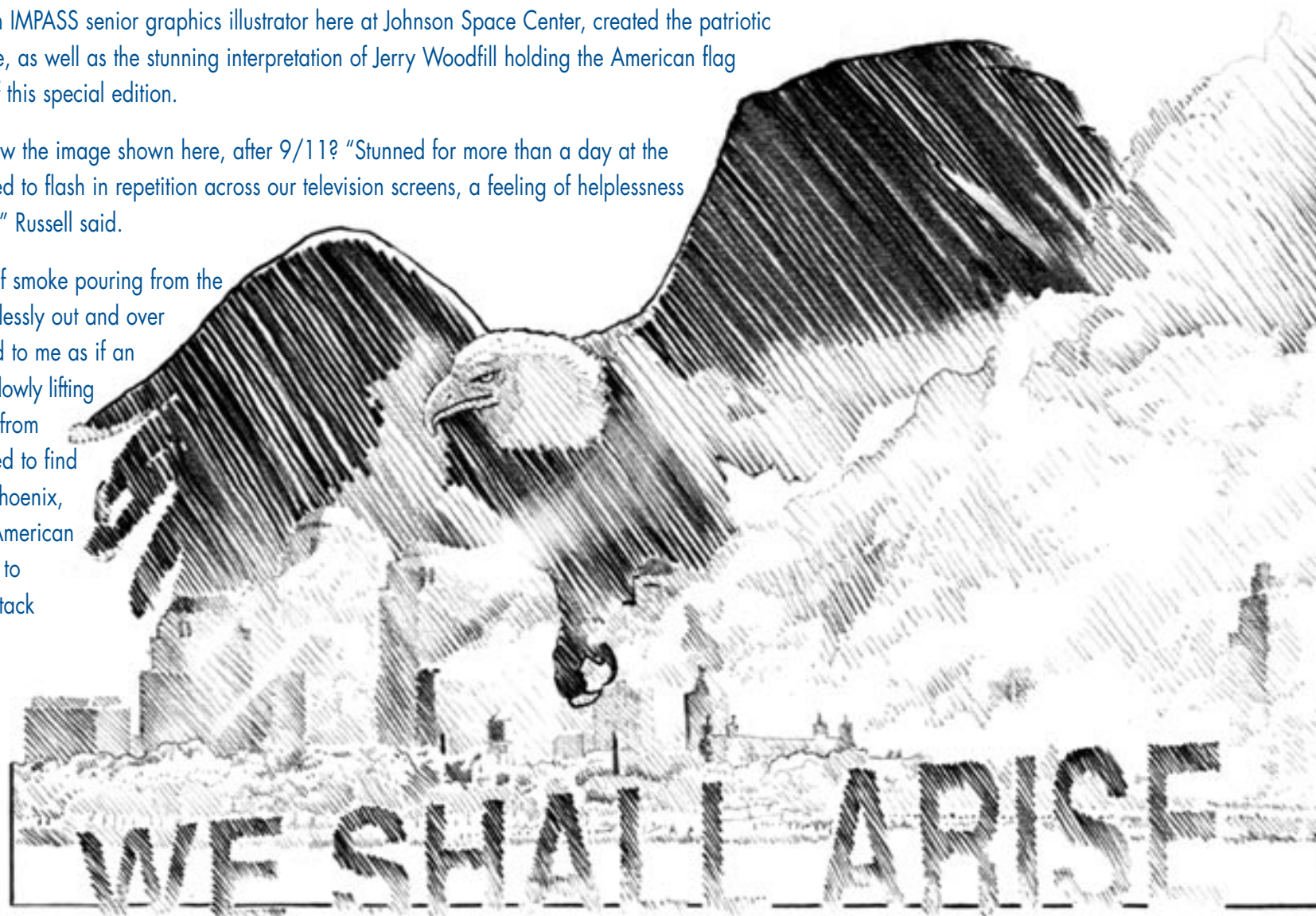
Amiko Nevills
NASA, Directoric Secretary
Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization



David M. Russell, an IMPASS senior graphics illustrator here at Johnson Space Center, created the patriotic artwork on this page, as well as the stunning interpretation of Jerry Woodfill holding the American flag on the front cover of this special edition.

Why did Russell draw the image shown here, after 9/11? "Stunned for more than a day at the images that continued to flash in repetition across our television screens, a feeling of helplessness clutched at all of us," Russell said.

"Finally, an image of smoke pouring from the site and drifting aimlessly out and over the East River looked to me as if an enormous bird was slowly lifting its wings and rising from the ashes, determined to find the culprits. Not a phoenix, but an eagle – the American Eagle – taking flight to avenge this awful attack on our country."



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